In this issue of the *Standard Update*, read about the new committee formed to manage implementing the EPA Chemical Identification Data Standard. Find out how EPA has refined its process for implementing data standards in its programs and data systems. Also see an update on the next set of data standards as they roll toward the finish line.

New Committee Provides Stewardship for Chemical Identification Data Standard

With EPA's adoption of the Chemical Identification Data Standard, the task of implementing the standard is underway. The Chemical Identification Data Standard Standing Committee will play a major role in promoting the standard's implementation throughout the Agency.

The Committee, which held its initial meeting on June 19, 2001, serves as the data steward for the content portion of the Chemical Identification data standard. The Committee will also oversee the EPA Chemical Registry System (CRS) (www.epa.gov/crs). (See the Spring 2001 *Standard Update* for a CRS description.)

The Chemical Identification Data Standard provides a common and consistent way to identify and represent chemical substances across the Agency; provides EPA with a unique, unambiguous, common name for each chemical substance and chemical grouping in which the Agency has an interest; and provides a way to reference data about chemical substances across EPA systems and to search for chemical entries in these systems. The CRS is the vehicle for maintaining a consistent naming protocol.

The establishment of the Committee is called for by the Chemical Identification Data Standard business rules.
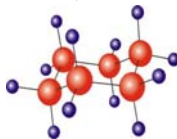
Membership is comprised of at least one representative from each EPA office that manages chemical information. As part of its mission, the Committee appoints members to the Chemical Nomenclature Committee; maintains consistency with other data standards; recommends CRS enhancements; and periodically evaluates the standard and related business rules for possible revision. The Committee plans to develop an outreach strategy targeting Agency users as well as the regulated community. Regional and State representatives will provide input from their respective organizations. ¤

Draft Permitting and Enforcement/ Compliance Standards Near Completion

Based on reports from the June 2001 Environmental Data Standards Council (EDSC) meeting, draft data standards for environmental permitting and enforcement/compliance are expected to be available for public comment by October 1, 2001.

Matt Hale, Permitting Action Team Cochair, updated the EDSC on the Action Team's current status. The Action Team, which convened in August 2000, developed a core set of data elements commonly included in environmental permits. The purpose of the Permitting Data Standard is to provide a common data set for documenting, describing, and exchanging permitting related information among EPA, states, and tribal nations. The standard would encompass all permit programs that are practicable, and all permit information exchanged between Federal and State, and State-to-State programs.

Steve Thompson and Fred Stiehl, Enforcement/ Compliance Data Standard Action Team cochairs, presented the EDSC with the latest draft of the

standard, which is still undergoing internal review and revision. Over the past year, the Action Team exhaustively identified and defined the major areas of enforcement and compliance culminating in a data standard that defines a common set of data.

Reporting on other standards-related activities, Andy Battin, Office of Water Senior Information Resource Management Official (SIRMO), discussed the status of the Data Elements for Reporting Water Quality Results of Chemical and Microbiological Analytes, developed by the Methods and Data Comparability Board and the National Water Quality Monitoring Council (NWQMC). The proposed list is a core set of data elements for reporting water quality monitoring results. The data elements are intended for use by data collectors to assess comparability among water-quality data sets.

The EDSC plans a 45-day public review period for each standard. A brief notification of the availability, Web location, and contact information for the standards will be posted in the Federal Register. The draft data standards will also be posted on the Environmental Data Registry (EDR) Website. ¤

EPA Refines its Data Standards Implementation Process

EPA has finalized six data standards—Date, Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)/North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), Latitude/Longitude, Chemical Identification, Biological Taxonomy, and Facility Identification. With implementation dates approaching for the 13 EPA national systems identified in the Reinventing Environmental Information Initiative, along with new systems, the Data Standards Branch has been meeting with SIRMOs, program managers, system managers, and Information Collection Request (ICR) contacts to discuss data standards implementation in their systems. The Data Standards Branch offers detailed information on implementation dates and the scope of these standards. If you are interested in discussing these or related topics with representatives of the Data Standards Branch, contact Sara Hisel McCoy at 202-260-7937, hisel-mccoy.sara@epa.gov or Tim Crawford at 202-260-1715, crawford.tim@epa.gov. ¤

The *Standard Update*, EPA's newsletter about data standards, contains information you can read and reuse. For more information on any newsletter topic, see the Environmental Data Registry (EDR) www.epa.gov/edr/. The EDR is your source for *Standard Update* back issues and a vehicle for reader comments.

ⓔⓘ OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION For additional information on Agency data standards activities, contact Tim Crawford, Data Standards Branch Chief (Acting), Office of Environmental Information at 202-260-1715, crawford.tim@epa.gov.